

Tearfund Ireland's Vision and Mission

We believe in the God-given inherent worth of each person and recognise our responsibility to conduct ourselves in a way that affirms respect, dignity and equal value of each individual.

The purpose of Tearfund Ireland is **to bring hope and demonstrate love to the most vulnerable and marginalised people through the local church** by:

- Proclaiming and demonstrating the gospel of Jesus Christ for the whole person through support of Christian relief and development.
- Working through a worldwide network of Christian partners.
- Encouraging partnership in prayer and support from Christians in Ireland.
- Seeking at all times to be obedient to biblical teaching.

Vision

Our vision is to see flourishing communities in partnership with local churches free from poverty and injustice.

Mission Statement

Our passion, is to stand together to transform the lives of the most marginalised through partnerships that mobilise, empower and build capacity

Our Values

Tearfund Ireland is driven by its belief that God through His word, character and the person of Jesus Christ calls the Church and Christians to active involvement in ending poverty and seeking justice for people who are marginalised and vulnerable.

Christ-centred: As followers of Jesus Christ we are committed to following Christ's example - His words, actions and life in all that we do, say and are. Our roots go down deep in Him: His Spirit energises us, His word steers us and His presence steadies us.

Justice: We are committed to justice for all people and communities. We believe that all people should be treated justly and equitably. We are committed to seeking the restoration of relationships that are unjust and inequitable and seek to ensure the dignity and flourishing of every human being and society as a whole.

Empowerment: We are committed to people and communities being empowered to live with dignity and to flourish. We will advocate with and on behalf of those most vulnerable and will support their capacity building for 'self-help', growing resilience and flourishing.

Relational: We are committed to meaningful, effective and mutually beneficial relationships. We seek to put those we are serving first while working collectively with humility through mutual respect, learning, service and support.

Passionate: We are passionate in our convictions and commitment to seek the transformation of people and communities and are driven to eradicate poverty and injustice with and on behalf of those most vulnerable.

Integrity: We are committed to working with integrity and seek to uphold standards and principles of excellence, accountability, transparency and good practice. We will seek to continually learn, improve and share models of best practice and innovation while also being highly effective in the allocation of our resources.

Tearfund Ireland's Statement of Faith

Tearfund Ireland is an evangelical Christian organisation called to reflect the biblical unity of faith and life, of history and eternity, and of the proclamation and demonstration of the gospel.

1. As disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ we bear witness to the one living God, revealed through the Bible as the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. God's plan for the universe is to bring about, through Jesus Christ, a transformed creation wholly governed by God, from which all evil and suffering will be banished and in which God will live with redeemed humanity for ever. The presence and hope of the kingdom of God shape and motivate our mission through evangelism, compassionate service, active pursuit of justice and peace, and care for creation.
2. We bear witness to the following truths of the historic Christian faith as the pillars of our worldview, the motivation for our mission and the foundation for our commitment:

The Bible as the Word of God

The Bible tells the universal story of creation, fall, redemption and new creation, and thereby shapes our worldview. We receive it as the word of God spoken through human authors and believe it to be true and trustworthy in all it affirms. We depend upon it as the revelation of God's identity, character, purposes and actions and submit to it as supremely and uniquely authoritative for our belief and behaviour.

God as Creator

The universe is the good creation of the one living God and reveals God's existence, power and glory. Human beings are created in the image of God, male and female, in order to love, worship and obey God, to relate to one another in love, justice and compassion, and to care for creation.

Human sin

Humans have sinned by rebelling against God, rejecting God's authority and disobeying God's word and so are alienated from God, one another and the created order. Sin deserves God's judgment and leads to eternal separation from God. The effects of sin and the power of evil have permeated the fabric of cultural, economic, social, political and religious life, causing poverty and damaging the creation.

Human worth

Though distorted by sin, the image of God remains the basis of the uniqueness, dignity, sanctity and equality of all persons without distinction. God loves and cares for all people in their cultural and ethnic diversity and has reached out in grace to save them through Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour

Jesus of Nazareth is the Son of God, the Messiah uniquely appointed by God to bring the blessing of salvation to the world. God took our human nature in Jesus Christ, who taught and modelled the new life of the kingdom of God to which he calls his disciples. In his death on the cross he took upon himself the sin of the world, bearing its full cost and penalty so that we are put right with God through his grace by faith in Christ alone. On the cross Jesus also entered into our suffering, defeated the powers of evil and accomplished the reconciliation of all creation. In his bodily

resurrection he defeated death and became the forerunner of redeemed humanity. Through his ascension he is exalted as reigning Lord, and at his return he will execute God's judgment, destroy Satan, evil and death, and establish the universal reign of God.

God the Holy Spirit

The Bible testifies to the Holy Spirit's activity both in creation and history, empowering action for liberation and justice. The Holy Spirit convicts of sin and judgment, leads to faith and repentance and unites believers to Christ, making real in them what Jesus has accomplished. Through Christ, God's Spirit is poured out on all believers enabling them to live in unity and to bear the fruit of holiness, Christ-likeness and practical obedience. The Spirit gives gifts and power to proclaim and demonstrate the gospel, discern truth, pray effectively and prevail over the forces of darkness.

The Church and God's mission

The Church stands in continuity with God's people in the Old Testament, called through Abraham to be a light to the nations, shaped and taught through the law and the prophets to be a community of holiness, compassion and justice, and redeemed through the cross and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The church exists to worship and glorify God for all eternity and is commissioned by Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit to participate in the transforming mission of God within history.

3. God commands us to love him with all our heart and soul and strength and to love our neighbours as ourselves. Therefore, we commit ourselves through the transforming power of the Holy Spirit and in joyful obedience:
 - to live as the community of reconciled sinners in unity, humility and sacrificial Christian love,
 - to make known to all nations the gospel of God's grace through his forgiveness in Christ, calling people to faith, repentance and discipleship,
 - to demonstrate the values and the power of the kingdom of God, participating through suffering in Christ's triumph over evil,
 - to serve the needy with compassion, pursue justice and peace, and care for God's creation.